

WORSHIP SERVICE
MAY 10, 2026, 10:00AM
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE

My Chains Are Gone

Chris Tomlin

Hailey Tobin, soloist

*HYMN #51 Verses 1, 2, 3, & 5

All Creatures of Our God, Now Sing

St Francis of Assisi

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 98)

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song,

People: For the Lord has done marvelous things.

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

People: break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre
and the sound of melody.

**People: With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

Leader: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and
those who live in it.

**People: Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills
sing together for joy.**

All: Let us rejoice in the presence of the Lord!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord God, with joyous song we come before you aware of both our sinful nature and Your resurrection grace. We confess the darkness that has been entombed within us far too long: anger and disappointment, bitterness and frustration, envy and jealousy. In so many ways we have denied You, betrayed You,

and deserted You in word and in deed. This morning, Lord, we ask you to roll away the stones from our hearts, and allow Your healing light and life to renew our spirits. Forgive us for past wrongs, and awaken in us the Easter promise of new life. Allow us to rise again with Your Son, so that we might live as new people to Your glory. With humility and hope, we offer this prayer to You, as well as the silent confessions of our hearts.

Silence

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God's love for us is greater than the sin we commit against God. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. This is the Good News we proclaim in this place: when we confess our sins before God and one another, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Alleluia! Amen!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you

ANTHEM

Lord, Speak to Me Felix Mendelssohn/arr. James Denton

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children Pre-K – 5th grade recess to church school classrooms.

Grades 6-7 remain in the Meeting House through the sermon.

*HYMN (*page 7*)

How Great is Our God Chris Tomlin/Jesse Reeves/Ed Cash

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Peter 3:8-17

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Built for Good”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

SERMON RESPONSE

Revelation Song

Hillsong Music

Sophia Buzzeo

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As a congregation, we pray together – through word, silence, and
The Lord's Prayer (sins)

PRAYER RESPONSE

When There's Love at Home

John McNaughton

CALL TO OFFERING

Please pass the burgundy welcome books

OFFERTORY

Lord of the Worlds Above

Gordon Young

*DOXOLOGY (unison)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN #407

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Festival Toccata

Percy Fletcher

*Congregation please stand.

The flowers today are given in great celebration of all mothers, who nurture, support, and inspire us. They are also offered in remembrance of mothers who now live in God's eternal care.

The Disciples Deck Question:

Card 36: “Now who will you harm if you are eager to do what is good?”

Thank you to Marie-Ange Masters and Joanne Sullivan for hosting our fellowship time this morning. Please join us for coffee in Smith Hall immediately following the service.

ARE YOU VISITING OUR CHURCH TODAY?

Welcome, and thank you for worshipping with us! If you have questions about our church or wish to join us for our next new member class, please contact Anna Rogers at (203) 274-0097 or welcoming@godsacre.org.

DO YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?

If you have a prayer request, please email Kelly Antonson at kelly@godsacre.org or Barb Clayton at barb@godsacre.org.

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

COMBINED CHURCH SCHOOL CLASS ON MAY 24

We will be offering a combined church school class over Memorial Day weekend for children ages 3 through 4th grade. The nursery will be available for children under 3 years of age.

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED

If you are interested in hosting coffee hour in May or early June, please sign up online or on the Fellowship bulletin board in Smith Hall. It is an easy way to serve the church; everything is provided for you! Contact Laurel Carr at laurel@godsacre.org with any questions.

LET'S TALK, NEW CANAAN! – MAY 16

On Saturday, May 16, from 9:00am-12:00pm at the Lapham Center, the New Canaan Clergy Association will host a unique community conversation designed to bridge divides and strengthen our town. Guided by Rev. Dr. Allen Hilton, participants from across political perspectives will engage in a respectful “Life Swap” practice—listening deeply to one another’s stories and convictions. This missional outreach invites neighbors to move beyond labels, build empathy, and rediscover the power of connection. You are invited to join this hopeful morning. Register using the QR code or contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org.

MAASAI 2026 – BUILDING CLASSROOMS BUILDING HOPE

Help us raise \$30,000 to build two much-needed classrooms for our Maasai partners in rural Kenya. Education—alongside water and food—is a core part of our long-standing partnership, and these new spaces will expand access for students, especially girls and children with disabilities. Church members have visited the community, seeing firsthand the impact of our shared work and



the overcrowded classrooms that make this need urgent. Stop by the Missions Table in Smith Hall to learn more or contact Beth Picard at bpicard44@gmail.com. Every gift helps create a brighter future through education.

MAY PLATE OFFERING

The May Plate offering will go to the Maasai 2026 project. Your generous donation will go towards building two much-needed classrooms.

MOTHER'S DAY MSYG BAKE SALE TODAY!

Please join us during Fellowship Hour in Smith Hall this morning to support the MSYG Mission Trip to Mountainside. We will have a variety of delicious baked goods available for sale, perfect as Mother's Day treats! Cash and Venmo accepted.

PACIFIC HOUSE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS & FOOD DONATIONS

Once a month (every third Thursday), our church provides and serves dinner at the Pacific House Homeless Shelter in Stamford. Volunteers are needed to both provide food items (especially a baked Ziti!) and serve a hot meal to approximately 60 men residing at the shelter. Contact Andy Parkin at andyparkin7@gmail.com for details on how to help.

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

A celebrated spiritual milestone in the life of our church is the presentation of the third-grade Bibles. This will take place during worship on Celebration Sunday, June 14. Please check your email for a link to register your child for their third-grade Bible, or contact Sarah Haddad at churchschool@godsacre.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration is open for Vacation Bible School Camp! Come join us for “God Squad: Adventures in Faith” on August 17-20 (Monday through Thursday from 9:00am-12:00pm) at the Church. We will have an action-packed week exploring Bible Superhero stories through games, activities, songs, crafts, and more. Children ages 4 through 4th grade are invited to participate as campers, while middle school and high school students can register to be junior and senior counselors. Registration closes this Friday! Contact Sarah Haddad at churchschool@godsacre.org.

YOUTH MINISTRIES & CHILDREN’S CHOIRS

This week, we have our dress rehearsal and cast party for the children’s musical, so JYG and Joyful Noise will not meet. Reminder that the YG End of Year Celebration is next Sunday! For any questions, please contact greer@godsacre.org.

Monday, May 11

Cherub Choir, ages 4-grade 1, Musical Rehearsal, 4:00-5:00pm

Tuesday, May 12

Guppies, grades 2-3, Stepping Stones of Faith, 4:00-5:00pm

Spirit Singers, grades 2-3, Musical Rehearsal, 5:00-6:00pm

Thursday, May 14

Children’s Musical Dress Rehearsal and Cast Party, 4:00-6:00pm

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

Senior Minister

Kelly Antonson

*Associate Minister for Children, Youth
and Families*

Lindsey Daly

Director of Children's Ministries

Nerva Altino

Director of Music Ministries

USHERS

Jim Clayton, Penny Mardoian,

Cindy Ordning

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Hope Hetherington

We are a welcoming, inclusive and compassionate church community where difference and diversity are valued. We gather to promote the love and knowledge of the God revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Redeemer and Friend, and welcome all to participate in the life of our church regardless of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, ability, marital status, or sexual orientation.



We invite you to make
your pledge today.